



Maricopa County
Emergency Management

OPEN MEETING ITEM

ORIGINAL



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2035 North 52nd Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85008
Phone: (602) 273-1411
Fax: (602) 275-1638
TTD: (602) 244-1409

23 June 2003

Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
1200 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Arizona Corporation Commission

DOCKETED

JUN 24 2003

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AZ CORP COMMISSION
DOCUMENT CONTROL

Re: Docket No. L- 00000B-00-0105, Case No. 105

Dear Commissioners,

It has come to my attention that the Salt River Project is asking to amend a restriction at their San Tan Generation Plant. The amendment would allow the Salt River Project to burn ultra low sulfur diesel fuel during emergency situations. Such a situation could occur due to the restriction or shortage of natural gas to our area. The possibility for such a shortage has been made more realistic now that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has forced SPR out of their agreement with El Paso Gas Corporation for their required amount of natural gas. This has set up a situation where the demand for gas may exceed the amount that would be delivered to SRP.

By having 2-3 days of diesel available on site, and by making the required modifications to their plan to cleanly burn such, it adds a layer of redundancy to assure stable delivery of energy in our communities. The times that an energy emergency may occur are the hotter months of the year. Should there be an outage during those times, a cascading emergency or disaster could develop. Such an emergency could be economic, such as the loss of food to warm temperatures from the lack of refrigeration, or could cause much more serious health consequences if certain segments of the populace do not have methods of cooling themselves. A heat wave several years ago in Chicago caused the death of well over 600 people who couldn't cool themselves adequately.

We are asking that you approve SRP's request to allow for the burning of ultra low sulfur diesel fuel on a limited emergency basis. Although it is not likely that, except for routine system testing, such a need will be realized, it will provide an added bit of safety net to our energy requirements and the prevention of an energy emergency.

Thank you for your consideration and service.

Sincerely,

Warren J. Leek
for Robert E. Spencer, Director